Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended): An analytical model preparing apparatus comprising:

means for entering a shape model to be analyzed;

a database which maps each of a plurality of shape models previously made together with analytical mesh models corresponding to the shape models previously made already prepared shape models with an analytical mesh model and registers the same;

a degree of approximation calculating means including:

means for preparing associated information of shape elements by comparing shape elements in the shape model to be analyzed with shape elements in the already prepared shape models and shape models previously made associating the shape elements in the shape model to be analyzed with the shape elements in the already prepared shape models previously made,

means for calculating a degree of approximation of the shape elements of the already prepared shape models previously made based on the number of shape elements of the shape model to be analyzed and the number of shape

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elements of the shape model previously made associated with the associated

information of the shape elements,

means for displaying ~~the already prepared shape models~~ sequentially

the shape models previously made from larger to smaller degrees of approximation

on a display screen, and

means for selecting, in response to an instruction, at least one ~~already~~

~~prepared shape model~~ of the shape models previously made from among said

~~already prepared~~ shape models previously made displayed; and

an analytical model preparing means for preparing an analytical mesh model

of the shape model to be analyzed by use of attribute information prepared for the

analytical mesh model corresponding to said ~~at least one already prepared~~ shape

model previously made selected by the means for selecting, in accordance with the

associated information of the shape elements between the shape elements in the

shape model to be analyzed and the shape elements in the ~~already prepared~~ shape

models previously made.

18. (currently amended): An analytical model preparing apparatus according

to claim 17, wherein said degree of approximation calculating means includes means

for comparing an intrinsic identifier of the shape element in the shape model to be

analyzed with ~~an~~ intrinsic identifiers of the shape elements in the ~~already prepared~~

shape models previously made, and associating the shape elements having the

same identifier with each other.

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19. (currently amended): An analytical model preparing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said degree of approximation calculating means includes means for comparing topological information of the shape element in the shape model to be analyzed with topological information of the shape elements in the ~~already prepared~~ shape models <u>previously made</u>, and associating the shape elements having the same topology with each other.

20. (currently amended): An analytical model preparing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said degree of approximation calculating means includes means for comparing coordinate values of the shape element in the shape model to be analyzed with coordinate values of the shape elements in the ~~already prepared~~ shape models <u>previously made</u>, and associating the shape elements having the same coordinate values with each other.

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